

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01

SAJ-01 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00

EB-07 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-01 /086 W

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R 161503Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1434

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0199

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENERG, RO, XF

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN FOLLOW-UP ON U.S. USE OF FORCE AGAINST
OIL PRODUCERS

REF: BUCHAREST 0140

1. ROMANIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY LUMEA'S (JANUARY 16)
FOLLOW-UP COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" STATEMENT
TAKE SOFTER LINE THAN SCINTEIA EDITORIAL (REFTEL). MAIN THEME,
LIKE EDITORIAL, IS SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL
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USE OF FORCE. THIS TIME, SECRETARY'S PHRASES "STRANGULATION",

"HYPOTHETICAL PROBLEM", AND "ONLY IN CASE OF EXTREME URGENCY" (NOT MERELY TO BRING DOWN OIL PRICES) ARE USED. QUOTES OF INTERNATIONAL FIGURES AGAINST THREAT OF FORCE ARE SLIGHTLY TONED DOWN AND SELECTIVELY EDITED TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE, NOT FORCE; STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT AND SECDEF ARE NOT MENTIONED (ALTHOUGH LUMEA'S DEADLINE WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THIS).

2. QUASI-OFFICIAL GOR SPOKESMAN R. CAPLESCU (SCINTEIA FOREIGN EDITOR) ACKNOWLEDGED IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH EMBOFFS THAT HIS SCINTEIA ARTICLE HAD BEEN WRITTEN MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN PUBLICLY CONSISTENCY OF ROMANIAN POSITION ON NON-USE OF FORCE. HE STATED HE DID NOT INTEND TO WRITE ANYTHING MORE ON SUBJECT "AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT". AFTER EMBOFFS HAD MADE VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, BEARING DOWN HARD ON FACT SCINTEIA ARTICLE HAD TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE, CAPLESCU RESPONDED SO FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED MATTER WAS NOW CLOSED AND THAT SCINTEIA WOULD MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: LIKE SCINTEIA, LUMEA ARTICLE STRIKINGLY AVOIDS ATTEMPT TO MAKE ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA MILEAGE FROM INCIDENT AND INSTEADS POINTS UP WITH RESTRAINT (1) THAT EVEN IN "HYPOTHETICAL" CASE THREAT

OF FORCE CONTRAVENES CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND (2) POSSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE ARE FAR FROM EXHAUSTED IN REGION.

BARNES

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